



17	10	10	7	9	36
23	0	0	7	7	14

DEC. 28, 2024
ALAMODOME, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

TEAM NOTES

11 WINS

- > BYU won 11 games for the 13th time in school history and second under Kalani Sitake.

COUGS AND COLORADO

- > BYU moved to 4-8-1 in the series against Colorado. The Cougars' last played the Buffaloes in a 20-17 Freedom Bowl win in 1988. Ty Detmer came off the bench to lead BYU to victory in that game. In 2024, the Cougars reunited with Colorado in Detmer's hometown of San Antonio.

RANKED TEAMS

- > BYU's win over No. 23 Colorado is the Cougars' second over a ranked team in 2024. In its two wins over ranked teams, BYU outscored the top-25 opponent by a combined score of 74-23.
- > The Cougars are now 29-9 under Kalani Sitake when playing as a ranked team.

BOWLS

- > BYU moved to 18-22-1 in bowl games and now has wins in three of its last four.
- > Under Kalani Sitake, BYU is 5-2 in bowl games.

"SPECIAL" TEAMS

- > Kingston's punt return for a touchdown gave the Cougars five total special teams touchdowns in 2024, its most since five in 1971.
- > BYU has now recovered an onside kick in consecutive games. Ethan Slade's recovery versus Colorado comes after Talan Alfrey returned an onside kick 58 yards for a touchdown on Nov. 30 versus Houston.
- > With field goal makes of 51 and 54 yards, Will Ferrin finished the season 4-of-5 from beyond 50 yards.

DEFENSE

- > BYU's defense held Colorado to 61 total yards in the first half with 58 coming on one play.
- > It was the second time this season the Buffaloes were held scoreless in the first half (Nebraska, L 28-10)
- > The Cougars had 3 sacks in the first half to tie their season best in an entire game (SMU, Baylor), a fourth sack from Siale Esera gave the Cougars a season-high.

PLAYER NOTES

K WILL FERRIN

- > Ferrin made a 51-yarder in the first half to set the single-season school record in made field goals with his 22nd of the year.
- > He added on with a 54-yarder at the end of the first half to give him his fourth field goal of 50+ this season.
- > Ferrin also tied the school record with his 16th consecutive make (Owen Pochman 15, 1999)

PR PARKER KINGSTON

- > Kingston took a punt return 64-yards to the house for his second punt return for a touchdown this year
- > It is the first time since James Dye in 1996, and 6th time in program history, that a BYU player has had multiple punt return touchdowns within the same season.
- > Kingston finished the game with 102 punt return yards and 24 receiving yards.

LJ MARTIN / VALERO ALAMO BOWL OFFENSIVE MVP

- > Martin finished with 93 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns on 17 carries.
- > Also led the team in receiving yards with 33, good for 126 yards of total offense.

LB ISAIAH GLASKER / VALERO ALAMO BOWL DEFENSIVE MVP

- > Glasker finished as BYU's leading tackler with seven tackles and also had one TFL and an interception
- > His third INT of the year tied him with Tanner Wall and Jakob Robinson for the team lead in 2024

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

CAREER FIRSTS

- > LB Harrison Taggart (sack)
- > S Raider Damuni (sack)

CAREER HIGHS

- > K Will Ferrin (Multiple 50+ in same game)
- > TE Ryner Swanson (20-yard reception, 30 receiving yards)
- > PR/WR Parker Kingston (All-purpose yards, PR yards)
- > Safety Faletau Satuala (2 tackles - tied)

GAME INFO

Weather: (Indoor) 74 degrees

Attendance: 64,261

Series Results: 4-8-1

Captains: DE Tyler Batty, OL Connor Pay, WR Chase Roberts, CB Jakob Robinson

Coin Toss: Colorado won the toss and deferred to the second half.

Uniforms: White helmet, white jersey, white pants (royal trim)

BYU Flag Bearers

Alumni: Alumni Flag bearers

Derwin Gray (S, 1989-92)

Omar Morgan (CB, 1996-97)

Margin Hooks (WR, 1996-00)

American: S Ethan Slade

Utah: OL Sam Dawe

BYU: WR Rowan Reay

Big 12: Christian Tupou (Strength Coach)



For a live feed of in-game notes follow [@BYUGameNotes](#) on X (Twitter) throughout gameday. Track milestones, news, notes and more.



Find more game materials including box scores, postgame audio/video files and more at byucougars.com/pressbox





Valero Alamo Bowl

Post Game Press Conference: BYU

Sunday, December 29, 2024

BYU 36, Colorado 14

KALANI SITAKE: Happy we got the win. Proud of our boys. We knew going into this game it was going to take -- that we were going to have to function at a high level because you could see the talent that is on that team, so I have to give a lot of credit to Colorado for getting us to this point.

I think we found something in ourselves knowing that we had to prepare for them. I think there's some great talent on that team. I think we have some great talent, too. But have to give a lot of credit to Deion, Coach Prime and his staff and they're talented team.

I think a lot of things just worked out in our favor in all three phases. We didn't play error free, but I liked the way our guys played, I liked the aggressiveness, the physical part of the game. Yeah, just looking forward to -- we have a lot of young guys still, but I'm happy for our seniors, the things that they've been able to accomplish. I'm very fortunate to be their coach, and I'm lucky I get to coach this guy. Not bad for a wide out, in high school very talented wide out. Got some nice hands. Should have had two picks.

But I think Shedeur is a really, really good quarterback, an excellent quarterback. He's going to have a great career. We had to find different ways to confuse him and we had some extra time to get ready for him.

But you could see that he's got a great demeanor about him. His football IQ is special, and I think he's going to have a great career in the NFL. Same thing with Travis Hunter, and they have a lot of guys that will move on to the next level and probably be teammates with this guy in the future.

Just looking forward to the momentum that we can gain from this. Obviously just really happy, want to celebrate with the seniors, but I think this is a really good step for us, and I'm glad that we were able to get this done.

Q. Kalani, how motivated was this team? How motivated were you to make a statement in this game?

KALANI SITAKE: Well, it wasn't anything against Colorado. It was just that we knew what we were going against. I think there's a lot of coaches and a lot of people that have said this is a very talented roster on Colorado's side. They've had a lot of success, and you see the things they were able to do especially on the offensive side. I think sometimes you forget that they play a complete game, defense, and they create some turnovers. They did tonight.

We just had a plan. We just wanted to execute it and wanted to stay aggressive. I know we made some mistakes, like I said before, but I just liked our style of executing in all three phases. I think people forget about special teams. It's a big part of our success, and Coach K-Pop, Coach A-Rod and obviously Coach Hill, those guys have done an amazing job. It's pretty easy for me; I just decide if we go for it or not on 4th down and stuff like that. But I'm lucky to work with wonderful men that are great mentors to me and to the players, and more than anything I'm lucky enough to be around these guys.

I said before at the banquet that they make me a better person, so I love hanging out with them.

Q. Kalani, you've talked all season about wanting to get that four quarters and see what this team could do. I know you made a couple miscues but that's as close as you've gotten this season. How nice was it to see that on the field this last game?

KALANI SITAKE: I liked the mindset of the entire team. When I say I liked the mindset of the entire team, it's not like I had to give a great speech or anything. The seniors took over. It's been them from the very beginning, from the end of last year when those seniors took over and then led us into the Big 12, although it didn't work out the way we wanted it to, we did some really good things. But these seniors are able to build on that, and they've got the system in place where now they're going to be able to pass it on to the young guys and next year's seniors.

It's a nice cycle of things that are happening. I don't mind it at all. Sometimes as a leader I've just got to step out of the way and let these guys do it.

Q. Kalani, you stayed pretty quiet when you guys lost to Kansas since ASU had pretty much dropped out of the College Football Playoff picture. What would you like to say now about that appearance snubbing and did you belong in the College Football Playoff?

KALANI SITAKE: I mean, guys, the system is better than it was when there was four and better than it was when there was two. It is the way that it is now.

I don't think that's anything that you can campaign for. But I do know that we know that errors that we made. We're going to own them. We're going to try to find ways to get better.

But I don't think you sit there and you complain -- for me and for our players, it doesn't help us. We've just got to learn from the mistakes that we made and control the stuff that we can control. But the system is way better than it was before. I'm excited to watch this next wave of games.

But it just ended up with a tiebreaker system that we weren't in it, and that's okay. Sometimes life is some disappointments, and you're only left with your reaction. So our reaction, we turned it into a positive, and I think you saw a lot of what we turned it into tonight.

There's a lot of really cool things that happened, and like I said, I got to sit here as these guys led the way. Connor especially was an amazing leader. You guys watched what he did when he was hurt and not playing. The guy was an amazing coach, and the way he complimented the work from our guys and from TJ Woods has been amazing. I'm honored and lucky to be around these young men.

Q. Connor, as one of those seniors that Coach was just talking about, when he says the seniors took over, what does that mean from your perspective? How did the senior class take over with this group?

CONNOR PAY: I appreciate you asking me the question. I know I'm the only one up here that doesn't have a trophy.

No, this was well worth it. But I think it started back in January, not playing in a approximate bowl game, bad taste in your mouth. You want to change that, and that brings a grit and a fire to our off-season. That's where it began.

I think what this senior class brought in particular was a discipline and a resilience because all it is is you've got to go and do things at a high level every day. You've got to do the ordinary better than everybody else. That's the real challenge. Everyone is going to show up to workouts. Everyone is going to do the same things across the whole country. Everyone has an off-season program.

But who's going to make the most of every single day and not just go through the motions? Who's going to do that little bit extra. That's what we really tried to push the team to do, and they made it really easy. They responded really well.

We were able to carry that through spring ball, through summer workouts and into our season up until now.

Q. Connor, how nice was it for you and for this senior class to see that product today capping all of that work here in the Alamo Bowl with that performance?

CONNOR PAY: It was awesome. It was awesome. The sweetest part was for, like you said, the other seniors, knowing that we could send each other out on a high note, and I can't remember the number of 11-win teams in BYU history, but -- there's 13, and most of the seniors have been on two of those 13 11-win teams, and one of them with a Power Five schedule, the first time in school history to have 11 wins with a Power Five schedule. That's something we can take pride in. We're proud of that.

We felt like we needed to make a statement. There was a third of the amount of people in here right now for the pregame press conference, but football is played on the field, not up on this stage right here, and we wanted to show that because Colorado is a good team. Especially the defensive front, their nose guard 97 who I went up against most of the game is a good player. He got me a couple times and I got him.

It was just good, again, to go and get a win against a quality opponent, too.

Q. Isaiah and maybe Tyler, can you describe how you basically confused their quarterback so much? It looked like he didn't know where a pressure was coming from. What was the game plan to confuse him so much?

ISAIAH GLASKER: Honestly, Jay Hill, he came up with a great game plan. We've been game planning for three weeks, and I don't know, the big thing for him is we like to bring the pressure, and playing all these different quarterbacks, I feel like you hit him one time and then he's going to, oh, who's coming this time, who's coming that time.

I feel like we just got to him early, and he was just kind of superstitious about who was going to come.

TYLER BATTY: Yeah, I would say the same thing. Coach Jay Hill did an excellent job prepping us for these guys, kind of learning how they operate and then coming up with a really good game plan to execute. When you've got guys over there like Glasker balling out, and like he said, we had guys flying in from every angle putting pressure on the quarterback, and I don't necessarily envy Shedeur in that situation, not knowing where the blitz is coming from.

I think a lot of credit to Jay Hill and just really proud of our defense.

Q. Going off of that for Isaiah and Tyler, I think Gary Anderson said you brought something like 17 different looks to them in the first half. Is this as extensive or as much variety as you've had in a game plan all year with the amount of time you've had to prepare?

TYLER BATTY: Yeah, I would say so. I think looking at our game plans this season, I think this was one of the ones where we definitely were top loaded, especially in a lot of pressures. Trying to get him to move. I think our secondary also did a great job kind of disguising what we were doing. We did have a lot. We did have a lot installed, and again, the dudes did a great job of executing everything that we had in.

ISAIAH GLASKER: Yeah, I feel like we had a lot installed. Coming into this game we knew Colorado was a big pass game. Jay Hill did a great job and especially the boys up front just to be able to get to him, and then it just kind of makes everybody's life a little bit easier. But I give a huge shout out to the boys in the secondary just flying around making plays and stuff. Our game plan, Jay Hill got us ready for this game especially.

KALANI SITAKE: It's not anything new. It's just stuff that we've been running. It's a lot easier when you have guys that understand the game. These guys do a great job -- we can just basically overwhelm them with scheme because these guys will make it work. We can go anywhere in the playbook with these young men, and I'm glad that we have a staff with Coach Hill and the rest of the defensive staff that can put that together. It takes all the front, the backers and the DBs to make it work.

Q. Kalani, what do you want the legacy of this particular team to be?

KALANI SITAKE: I don't know. I'm looking around, I don't think -- I'm not the kind of guy that gives yourself a nickname like a Seinfeld episode. I think people will determine it for us and define it for us. I don't think it's my place to make that statement.

I just love coaching these kids, these young men that are becoming adults, and these seniors, I'm so proud of them. I'm just going to keep going back to that. These are the best young men in college football, and I get to coach them.

Q. For Tyler and Connor, how do you want your senior class to be remembered going out with an 11-win season?

TYLER BATTY: You know, I think -- I hope our teammates just remember how much we at least tried to invest in this program. I think for me, that's really what it comes down to is do the same thing that we've done. We stand on the shoulders of giants that came before us. I've had an opportunity to play with some incredible teammates during my time at BYU that have helped shape and form me and have helped shape and form the culture. I just want to be remembered as one of those guys that helped push BYU to be great.

CONNOR PAY: I think I've been asked this question a lot over the last few weeks because it's coming to an end, but I think us as captains and as a leadership council, all we were trying to do is be extensions of Kalani and his culture.

When you have a team that's willing to buy into that, it makes being leaders a lot easier because we've seen both sides of it where we tried to push the same things in the past and it wasn't received very well by the team versus this season where guys believed and they bought into the culture.

I think if there's one thing that this team has done throughout the whole season, it's believe, believe in each other and believe in our culture and what we can accomplish. That powered us through the off-season, and it's powered us through the season now.

Kind of like Kalani, I don't want to label it, but I just feel like his culture of love and learn and believing in each other is what this team embraced, and hopefully that's not something that's reserved to just the 2024 team. That's something that continues to grow and continues to build like when these guys take over next year and they push that culture.

That's how you build a program. It's not just how you have a good football team, it's how you build a program. Kalani is building that with his culture, and that's all we tried to do this year.

KALANI SITAKE: You guys, LJ is quiet and soft spoken but you can ask him a question, too. He is the offensive MVP. Right now he's getting away with it. He doesn't want to answer questions.

LJ MARTIN: I like it a lot.

Q. LJ, I was curious, both you and Isaiah, what these trophies meant to you and being able to be recognized for what you guys did for the team tonight.

LJ MARTIN: It's awesome just being able to see our hard work just being seen. It's also a credit to the 10 other guys that were on the field with me at different times. You know them. Without Connor blocking up front this doesn't happen, without the defense stopping them, giving us the ball back, this doesn't happen. It's credit to everyone else, everyone who got us ready and just helped us throughout the game.

Q. LJ, you're the lone Texas native up there. What does it mean for you to put on a performance like that in your home state?

ISAIAH GLASKER: I was just going to piggyback off what LJ said. This is cool, but in reality the main thing we came here for was just to win. I couldn't get this trophy without the other 10 guys on the

field, especially the D-line helping bring pressure to where I can get interceptions. I don't know, us hitting gaps and stuff, freeing up so we can get sacks and stuff.

I give a huge shout-out to these boys. We worked hard through the summer, and I love our seniors, and just them being able to push us, I love these boys.

LJ MARTIN: It was awesome. Last time I came down here, I think I got hurt, so just to come out here and just be able to go out there and just play to the best of my ability, it was just really fun and was just everything I imagined it would be.

Q. Isaiah and LJ, Kalani said earlier he felt you found something in yourselves preparing for Colorado. What did you find in this prep and how can you build on it going into the future?

ISAIAH GLASKER: I honestly would just say coming into this game, I felt like we were comfortable. We weren't too stressed about anything, just because our game plan -- usually when you're preparing you're not nervous. I feel like going into this game, especially seeing Travis Hunter and Shedeur and these great players on Colorado, I feel like nobody on our team was nervous, we just was ready to play. We hadn't played in a while.

Being able to get back out there on the field, the boys just flying around, we were all excited before the game just to go out there and be able to play again.

LJ MARTIN: Yeah, just to piggyback off what he said, just going out there and competing, understanding that they have great players on the other side of the field, and you just don't want the stage set for us to go out there and try to show -- no one expected us to win or dominate like we did, so just to go out there and really just compete, that's all we were trying to do, and that's something I feel like we can carry into next year, just compete.

Q. Tyler, you and Connor, both you guys chose to come back. How fun was it this year, and how much are you glad you made that decision 12 months ago?

CONNOR PAY: Well, obviously it's been a good one. Felt like there was some unfinished business, and it's just -- when Tyler and I had never been a part of a losing team at BYU, and just the thought of that being our final time there and that being our legacy, that just didn't sit right.

And if we're being honest, when you lose games, your NFL stock goes down, so that was a factor, too. Obviously as some things were going on in my position room, it made it difficult.

Once Coach Woods was brought in and I sat down with Kalani and him and we went over the plan for this next season, I felt confident that it was the right move for me, and it's just been confirmation after confirmation all season long that this was the right move and that good things were going to happen all the way up until even last night when me and my boys beat Terminus on Zombies. I was like, we're going to go play good today. Coach, I finished all my film work beforehand, I promise, and I went to bed on time.

KALANI SITAKE: You've got to keep it balanced. I'm okay with it. That's all right.

CONNOR PAY: We were here for four days. I had to bring my Xbox.

KALANI SITAKE: It's okay to be balanced in life. It's okay. It's okay that you guys are gamers and stuff like that. I just don't understand it enough.

CONNOR PAY: No, confirmation after confirmation all season long that this was -- it was a hard decision, it really was, to either leave for the NFL or enter the portal and then decided to come back to BYU, but all year long it's been confirmations from my teammates, from my coaches, from God, that this was the right decision for me, and it's been everything I could have hoped.

TYLER BATTY: I'll follow up with that. I'm eternally grateful to Coach Kalani and Coach Tuiaki for the opportunity to come play at BYU. It's been the opportunity of a lifetime, and to end like this has been huge. To follow up with what Connor said, sitting here a year ago after losing our final game, there's a lot of unfinished business. There was that same sentiment of what's going to be your legacy at BYU, how do you want to go out, and having us saying it, being able to come back for another year was a huge blessing, having that extra year of eligibility.

Honestly, once I put everything out on the table, it was a fairly easy decision. We have unfinished business, and I wanted to make sure that we could display the ability of our team, and I feel like this year we have.

It's been an absolute success.



Valero Alamo Bowl Post Game Press Conference: Colorado

December 28, 2024

DEION SANDERS: God bless all of you for being here, for covering us and giving us the love and respect and appreciation that you did, if that's what you did.

Hats off to the Valero Alamo Bowl and all the dignitaries that made it possible for us to be here. They did a phenomenal job of hosting. The persons that reside in this city did a wonderful job of just being a blessing, and the hotel staff and everyone. It was a phenomenal week for us.

We're not happy with the results, but we're happy with the journey of getting here and being here and what transpired during the week.

Wonderful job. Wonderful job by BYU. They're well-coached. They did a phenomenal job of running the football. Special teams kicked our butts. We couldn't do nothing offensively much at all. Defensively I think we had some sound stops, but we didn't eat enough and we came up short.

Not to take nothing away from them. They played a heck of a football game. If I'm going to get my butt kicked, I'd rather get my butt kicked by that coach. I love him to life, man. He's a good man.

Q. Tonight was the end of an incredible chapter in CU football with this senior class. What, if anything, have these men taught you about yourself and coaching these last two years?

DEION SANDERS: Patience. They've taught me a tremendous amount of patience, and they taught me about forgiveness. There's a lot of young men, a lot of things transpired that you guys don't know about and aren't privy to, but I'm a tremendous forgiving person, and I absolutely love these guys. You don't understand, you never get an opportunity to see the subtle "I love you" that go on between us pregame and postgame and practice and this week's preparation and all of the OBs, Original Buffs, how thankful and appreciative they were that they got an opportunity to come participate in a week of bowl festivities.

Patience and forgiveness and just overall love, man. That's what they've taught me.

Q. Coach, I know you guys are big competitors and everything else. You talked about your relationship with Cam and Shedeur yesterday. How do you try to -- I don't want to say minimize what just happened but try not to have that overshadow the journey and everything else you guys have accomplished in two years?

DEION SANDERS: It won't. That's a wrap. It's over. They're on to the next. They're going to have tremendous careers. They're going to move on. They flush it. They may analyze it on the way home. I know Cam is going to think about it and he's going to think about plays that he made or didn't make, but they're going to flush it in their own to relax a little bit, first and foremost, then get their bodies back right for preparation for combines, pro days, and I think Cam is going to the East-West game, so he has to stay focused on that, as well.

Q. Coach Prime, we saw an emotional father at the beginning of this football game with your sons there. You knew this was coming. When did the reality hit, and how special a journey has it been? You had an opportunity that not many, if any, had.

DEION SANDERS: When we walked. When we did our walk and Shilo was there and looking across the field and I'm seeing Cam and I'm seeing Herm and so many of the other guys that have been on this journey with us, man, that's tough. I've been knowing this young man for a long time, and he's been balling out for a long time. Just the consistency that he has.

And then my sons, man, that's tough. That's tough, to know that that's it, that that walk won't happen again. That's tough. We've been doing this for a long time.

You recollect just the times in youth league and seeing them lay out uniforms in my closet, getting ready for the next game, and he used to have 100 wristbands on his wrist trying to stunt. All of those things I recall.

Q. Shedeur and Travis played late into the game regardless of the final score. What went into that decision and what it says about their character to play?

SHEDEUR SANDERS: Yeah, we started it so we had to finish it. That was simply it, no matter what it was, if it was the other way around and we was up, we were still going to play regardless.

Q. Shedeur, can you allow yourself to feel some of those same emotions your father is talking about or are you too much of a competitor, you're mad about what happened out there tonight?

SHEDEUR SANDERS: What emotions are you speaking of?

Q. This being your last game playing for your father.

SHEDEUR SANDERS: Yeah, the reality and all that hasn't kicked in yet. We're just focused on what happened out there and how to fix it going into the off-season and knowing how to prepare and get back healthy.

Q. You talked this week about trying to figure out that BYU defense and how tough it was going to be. What was it about their defense that was tough for you guys to figure out?

SHEDEUR SANDERS: Well, we started to identify and we started to get the rhythm of things, but we just wasn't connecting overall. That's what stopped us overall is ourselves.

Q. How has it been having the new recruits be with the team this week, and what do you think of importance of giving them that experience is?

CAM SILMON-CRAIG: It's been wonderful seeing the guys come in with a hunger. They kind of caught on how we get things done. I know I talked to one guy, I was like, it's your first time getting yelled at by Coach Prime so you're getting broke in. But these guys coming in, they're very -- they're way more humble than I thought. These guys are very quiet trying to listen and learn everything, so I'm going to be happy for these guys coming in. They're going to do some big things.

Q. Cam and Shedeur, what has it meant the last two years to put on the black and gold and represent CU?

CAM SILMON-CRAIG: It's meant everything just to be here and be here and be able to play under this wonderful tradition, play for Ms. Peggy and play for all these wonderful fans. It's been everything just to grind again with my coach, grind again with Coach Prime, Coach Hart, Coach Mathis. I've been with these guys for a minute so it means a lot to be successful with these guys one last time.

SHEDEUR SANDERS: It felt great representing Colorado and bringing it back to where it was in the past. We kind of, I'll say, relayed the foundation of the program, so now it's able for the other players coming in to take off and pick up where we left off.

Q. Where did you feel like you struggled offensively tonight?

SHEDEUR SANDERS: Everywhere. Yeah, there was nothing that we did great tonight.

DEION SANDERS: Ditto.

Q. Tonight aside, the two years that you guys have had here, how will you look back? For Shedeur and Cam, how will you remember your time in Colorado? You talked about what an impact, but how will you remember it when you look back?

CAM SILMON-CRAIG: I think about the work. I think about the brotherhood that we built. I love those guys in the locker room with all my heart. They mean a lot to me, so I think about the brotherhood when I look back on it and the way that we bond and have so much fun.

SHEDEUR SANDERS: I think time away will because right now we're all in this situation and we just came from a loss, so that's kind of what's on the forefront of our minds. But I would say within the next week when we're all separated, when we're all not together anymore, then I feel like I'll go back and be able to think about those times.

Q. Coach, when you look at the work your coordinators did this year, Pat Shurmur and Robert Livingston, what would you say about their body of work and their resume stepping into these new roles?

DEION SANDERS: They did a wonderful job. I'm proud of them. I love them. They know how to communicate with all of our young men. They really put them in positions for them to be extremely successful, and I love where we're headed. I'm proud of those two. Not just those two, the whole staff. I'm pretty sure a couple of them are going to come in my office about elevation because people are going to want them on their staffs, and that's what we're here for. We're here to advance people. You either get terminated or elevated; it's either going to be one of the two sooner or later.

Q. A 9-4 season, a Heisman winner and plenty other accomplishments and improvements across the board from year one to year two. What do you think you've established in the program that you can carry on and take the team to the next level?

DEION SANDERS: Expectation. We've established expectation. So now you expect us to perform a certain way. You expect us to win. You expect us to be exciting. You expect us to be a lot more disciplined than we displayed today. You just have expectations of us now. That's what we've established.

Q. Coach, as some of your players start to depart to the NFL, what have those messages been like as they prepare to hopefully have some great NFL careers?

DEION SANDERS: Well, we've got two up here, so you guys talk about them.

CAM SILMON-CRAIG: We always had a professional mindset going into everything. We always tried to move like a pro. Just being around him for so long, six years, so I feel like just every day he gives me different things to being a pro.

DEION SANDERS: You said that. I felt that. God, that's a long time.

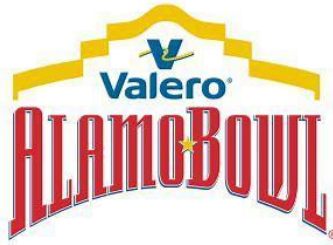
SHEDEUR SANDERS: I would say just by the way he established and just the way he goes about everything, the way how he makes us go about everything, I feel like that's already instilled in us, so I don't really see a big change, a big difference, besides just the level of it. But everything outside of that, I feel like we had the full experience our years in college.

Q. For Coach and Shedeur, top four receivers in terms of production this year, headed to the next level. For both of you, how confident are you in kind of the young guys in that receiving room to be able to continue to stand there moving forward and continue to be productive?

SHEDEUR SANDERS: Great because those young guys played and helped us out tremendously, so they understand the standard. They understand overall even just playing with me, so they know out of the next quarterback that comes in, which they're both already here, they know the standard and they know what they should be doing, and they'll be able to communicate and still have contact with me to be able to still help them out overall.

Q. Unfortunately it did not end the way you wanted it to, but more importantly this season left a legacy for not only CU but for college football, and being able to wrap up the season and leave a footprint on college football and how we recruit, market and display yourselves, what does that mean to you, the legacy not only for CU but for college football?

DEION SANDERS: I don't think we consider that at all. We really don't care. We don't know what that means, the legacy. We're just trying to develop these young men, win games, make sure they're consistent men in the community with their relationships, with their families, and then school. Trust me, to get an education. We don't think about it like that. We're thankful we play a role in that, but that does not enter our mindset, not one bit.



32nd Valero Alamo Bowl Postgame Notes

Final: BYU 36, Colorado 14

Game Date: December 28, 2024

Attendance: 64,261

SCORE: BYU 36, Colorado 14

RECAP: Capacity-Crowd Watches #17 BYU Dominate #23 Colorado

HEAD COACHES: Colorado: Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders, BYU: Kalani Sitake

HIGHLIGHTS: LJ Martin rushes for 93 yards and two touchdowns while BYU’s defense stymies Colorado’s offense by forcing two interceptions and allowing just two rushing yards while picking up four sacks

AWAY TEAM: BYU Cougars

HOME TEAM: Colorado Buffaloes

TV COVERAGE: ESPN

OFFENSIVE MVP: #27 RB LJ Martin, BYU

DEFENSIVE MVP: #16 LB Isaiah Glasker, BYU

FRED JACOBY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: #7 Cam’ron Silmon Craig, Colorado

A PACKED HOUSE - WHAT’S NEW?

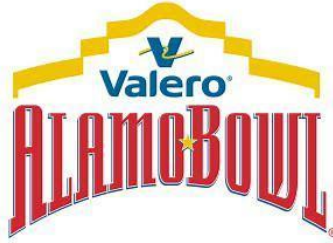
The 2024 Valero Alamo Bowl brought in a capacity-crowd of 64,261 fans. This number ranks as the 12th-highest attendance for the bowl and is the highest since TCU versus Oregon in 2016, which counted 64,569 people. Tonight’s crowd also counts as the second-highest for two out-of-state teams playing at the Valero Alamo Bowl, the first being 2004’s sellout between Oklahoma State and Ohio State.

FIRST BLOOD

BYU took an early 7-0 lead in the first quarter after a six play, 52-yard scoring drive that was punctuated with a one-yard rushing touchdown by LJ Martin. It was Martin’s sixth touchdown of the season and his first rushing touchdown since Oct. 26 versus UCF.

PUTTING THE LEG TO WORK

BYU kicker Will Ferrin wrote his name in the Alamo Bowl record books with a 54-yard field goal to send the Cougars into halftime with a 20-0 lead. It is the longest field goal in Alamo Bowl history and tied Ferrin’s career long set against Baylor on Sept. 28. He broke Texas K Cameron Dicker’s record set in



2020, a 53-yard field goal that also came against Colorado. Dicker now plays in the NFL for the Los Angeles Chargers.

Ferrin showcased his range earlier in the game with a 51-yard field goal that strengthened the Cougars' lead to 10-0 with 2:19 remaining in the first quarter. It's tied for the third-longest kick in Alamo Bowl history with Nebraska's Josh Brown in 2000 versus Northwestern.

EARLY STATEMENT

BYU's defense shutout the Colorado offense in the first quarter, marking the team's sixth first quarter shutout of the season. The Cougars won the previous five games after keeping their opponent off the board in the first quarter. The last time was against Utah on Nov. 9.

BUFFS TAKE THE BALL

Colorado's defense showed an early nose for the football with a pair of first-half interceptions. The Buffaloes' first pick came with five seconds remaining in the first quarter, as cornerback DJ McKinney reeled in a pass by BYU quarterback Gerry Bohanon on a trick play. It was the Texas native's third interception of the season and Bohanon's first game appearance since Sept. 21.

Seven minutes later, BYU quarterback Jake Retzlaff attempted a shovel pass, but it went right into the hands of Colorado defensive tackle Anquin Barnes Jr. for his first career pick.

SPECIAL TEAMS MAKE SPECIAL PLAYS

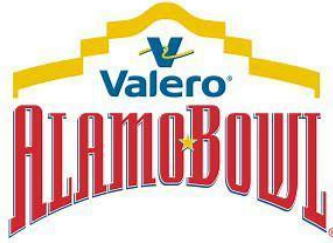
With 5:32 left in the first half, wide receiver Parker Kingston returned a punt 64 yards for a touchdown to give the Cougars a 17-0 lead. The score was the first punt return for a touchdown in an Alamo Bowl since 2017 when Desmon White (TCU) returned a punt 76 yards for a TD.

BANDS OF BROTHERS

CU has three sets of brothers on the team this season. Shedeur (QB) & Shilo (S) Sanders, LaJohntay (WR) & Jaylen (ILB) Wester, and Charlie (RB) & Chijoke (DT) Nwankwo. BYU's family duos are Cole (WR) & Cody (OL) Hagen, twins Marcus (CB) & Dominique (WR) McKenzie, John (DT) & Jackson (OL) Nelson, Connor & Trevor Pay (OL), and cousins Ace & Malika Kafusi (LB).

QUIET HALF

For just the second time this season, the Buffaloes were held scoreless, 20-0, in the first half of the game. The Cougars' defense limited Colorado to 70 yards in the air and minus-9 yards on the ground, marking the Buffs' largest point deficit of the season. They picked up just three first downs, compared to 11 by the Cougars, and averaged 2.8 yards per play. Colorado entered the matchup averaging 16.7 points per first half this season.



HEISMAN MOMENT

2024 Heisman Trophy winner Travis Hunter hauled in a 43-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to get Colorado on the board. The touchdown was his 15th receiving touchdown of the season and Hunter's final touchdown of his collegiate career. The touchdown reception put Hunter over 100 receiving yards for the eighth time this season. Hunter became the second Heisman winner to play in the Valero Alamo Bowl after winning the coveted award joining Baylor's Robert Griffin III (2011). When Griffin set foot in the Alamodome, 65,256 fans saw his Baylor Bears set the bowl record for most points (67) and total yards (777) in a 67-56 win over Washington. The 123 combined points was an NCAA record for a regulation game, which 6,923,194 viewers saw on ESPN. In total, six Heisman winners have played in the Valero Alamo Bowl with Griffin and Hunter being alongside Charles Woodson (1997), Eric Crouch (2001), Marcus Mariota (2014), and Caleb Williams (2022).

BYU VS. HEISMAN

BYU has faced a Heisman winner three times in the year in which the player won the award and are 0-3 in those games: Herschel Walker, Georgia, 1982; Chris Weinke, Florida State, 2000; Matt Leinart, USC, 2004. This bowl game marks their fourth, however this turnout has changed the statistic with a win against 2024 Heisman Trophy winner, #12 Travis Hunter.

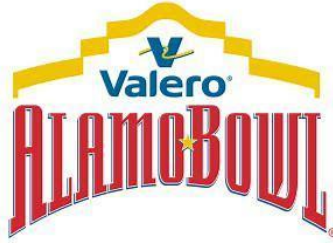
FORGET THE ALAMO BOWL

This marks Colorado's fourth appearance at the Alamo Bowl as well as its fourth straight loss in the dome. The Buffaloes first traveled to San Antonio on Dec. 28, 2002 against Wisconsin who defeated the Buffs in a thrilling 31-28 overtime affair. As for BYU, this was the Cougs' first outing at the Alamo Bowl and 18th all-time bowl victory.

Cougars Corral Colorado

The Valero Alamo Bowl promised excitement, and it delivered. The two electric out-of-state fanbases packed the Alamodome with 64,261 people, breaking the 12th-highest attendance for the bowl. It was the highest bowl attendance since 2016 when TCU faced Oregon, and the second-highest for two out-of-state teams playing in the bowl.

This bowl game packed quite a lot of meaning for both teams, as Colorado wide receiver Will Sheppard described the desire for making it "like the Super Bowl for us," as BYU was No. 2 and CU No. 4 in the final standings for the chance to make it to the Big 12 Championship game. Both teams promised to play a great game and they sure did deliver. During the 3.5 hours, BYU scored first with a 1-yard rushing touchdown by LJ Martin, his sixth of the season, BYU kicker Will Ferrin tied for the third-longest field goal in bowl history at 51 yards then set an Alamo Bowl record with a 54-yard field goal. Parker



Kingston's 64-yard punt return for a touchdown extended BYU's lead to 17-0. It was the first punt return touchdown in the Alamo Bowl since 2017. The Buffaloes were held scoreless in the first half (20-0) for only the second time this season. Colorado managed just 70 passing yards, -9 rushing yards, and three first downs in the half. Colorado's Travis Hunter, the 2024 Heisman Trophy winner, scored a 43-yard touchdown in the third quarter, marking his 15th receiving touchdown of the season and his eighth 100+ yard game.

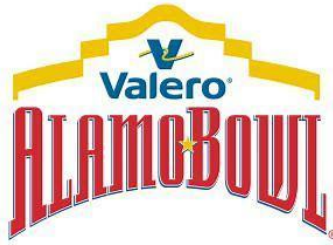
This marks the last game of the season for all of the seniors on both teams, but also many family pairings parting ways including Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders and his son Shedeur, senior LaJohntay and his junior brother, Jaylen Wester, BYU O-Line brothers Connor & Trevor Pay, and many more. The seniors wish to leave a deeply rooted support system and legacy just as others did for them; As BYU DE #92 Tyler Batty said after their win during the post-game press conference, "we stand on the shoulders of giants before us."

Background

The 2024 Valero Alamo Bowl featured a Big 12 conference matchup between the Colorado Buffaloes and the BYU Cougars. The conference foes have previously met 12 times combining for a record of 8-3-1 in favor of the Buffaloes. The first meeting was on Oct. 7, 1923 when Colorado shutout the Cougars in a dominant 41-0 victory in Boulder under head coach Myron Witham who led the team to its most recent undefeated season. The Cougars recorded their first win 23 years later on Oct. 19, 1946 in Provo after defeating the Buffaloes 10-7.

BYU concluded its 2024 campaign with a 10-2 record including seven conference wins and two losses against Kansas and #21 Arizona State. Five Cougars were awarded with All-Big 12 honors with offensive lineman Caleb Etienne, place kicker Will Ferrin and defensive linemen Tyler Batty earning All- Big 12 first team. Kick returner/punt returner Keelan Marion and defensive back Jakob Robinson were named to the All-Big 12 second team.

For Colorado, the Buffaloes finished with a 9-3 record marking the teams first winning season since 2020 when the Buffs concluded with a 4-2 record in a year that was cut short. Quarterback Shedeur Sanders, son of head coach Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders, was named the Big 12's offensive player of the year as he tallied a career high 3,926 passing yards and 35 touchdowns breaking both previous school records. Defensive back/wide receiver Travis Hunter became just the second two-way player to be named the Heisman winner since Charles Woodson won the award in 1997. Hunter also was named the Big 12's defensive player of the year. Both Sanders and Hunter were selected for the All-Big 12 first team as well as fellow defensive back BJ Green II.



Attendance Records at the Valero Alamo Bowl

1.	2007	Penn State 24, Texas A&M 17	66,166
2.	2013	#10 Oregon 30, Texas 7	65,918
3.	2006	#18 Texas 26, Iowa 24	65,875
4.	1999	#13 Penn State 24, #18 Texas A&M	65,380
5.	2012	#23 Texas 31, #13 Oregon State 27	65,277
6.	2004	#22 Ohio State 33, Oklahoma State 7	65,265
7.	2011	#12 Baylor 67, Washington 56	65,256
8.	2001	Iowa 19, Texas Tech 16	65,232
9.	2010	Texas Tech 41, Michigan State 31	64,757
10.	1995	#19 Texas A&M 22, #14 Michigan 20	64,597
11.	2016	#11 TCU 47, #15 Oregon 41 (3OT)	64,569
12.	2024	#17 BYU, #23 Colorado	64,261
13.	2022	#20 Texas 20, #12 Washington 27	62,730
14.	2005	Nebraska 32, #20 Michigan 28	62,016
15.	1998	Purdue 37, #4 Kansas State 34	60,780
16.	2018	#13 Washington St. 28, #24 Iowa St. 24	60,675
17.	2015	#14 UCLA 40, #11 Kansas State 35	60,517
18.	2019:	Texas 38, #11 Utah 10	60,147
19.	2000	#8 Nebraska 66, #19 Northwestern 17	60,028
20.	2016	#12 Oklahoma State 38, #10 Colorado 8	59,815
21.	2021	#14 Oregon 32, #16 Oklahoma 47	59,121
22.	2017	#15 TCU 39, #13 Stanford 37	57,653
23.	2010	#14 Oklahoma State 36, Arizona 10	57,593
24.	2003	#21 Nebraska 17, Michigan St. 3	56,229
25.	2008	#23 Missouri 30, #20 Northwestern 23	55,986
26.	2023	#14 Arizona 38, #12 Oklahoma 24	55,853
27.	1996	#21 Iowa 27, Texas Tech 0	55,677
28.	1997	#16 Purdue 33, #24 Oklahoma State 20	55,552
29.	2002	#14 Wisconsin 31, Colorado 28	50,690
30.	1993	California 37, Iowa 3	45,716
31.	1994	#24 Washington State 10, Baylor 3	44,106